

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET - SENSITIVE

October 27, 1962

NSC Executive Committee Record of Action, October 27, 1962, 9:00 PM  
Meeting No. 9

1. Secretary McNamara recommended, and the President approved, the callup of 24 air reserve squadrons, involving 14,000 personnel.
2. The President directed that Ambassador Stevenson tell U Thant that a Soviet tanker was approaching the quarantine zone and reminding U Thant of the Soviet statement that Soviet ships would not enter Cuban waters.
3. There was discussion of next steps including the calling up of U.S. ships and the addition of POL to the list of prohibited goods.
4. The President read a message from General Norstad which presented the difficulty for NATO of any trade tying Cuban missiles to Turkish missiles.
5. There was a general discussion of a draft message to Ambassador Finletter giving him guidance as to his presentation to the NATO meeting of Permanent Representatives called for tomorrow. (Copy of message to Finletter attached.) It was agreed that this NATO meeting should be limited to reporting on actions we have taken and reviewing NATO problems arising out of Khrushchev's public letter.

*McG. Bundy*  
McGeorge Bundy

Att: TOPOL 578

(EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FILE *NSC Ex. Comm*  
*Record of Action*)

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State Department, NSC reviews completed

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USUN FOR INFO 1126 listed page 3  
REPEAT ALL NATO CAPITALS/EYES ONLY INFO AREA SADOBS.

Info:

USO PASS MCASSY

1. The President desires that your briefing of NATO be essentially factual and reflect clear determination of US Government to press on its present course as reflected in (1) White House statement issued noon Saturday or continuing buildup (2) President's message to Khrushchev released White House Saturday evening, (3) announcement by DOD of continued surveillance, and (4) DOD announcement call up of AIR reserves (all contained wireless file).

2. You can report that message from Khrushchev to President received night October 23 (being repeated in letter, Paris and London only), while full of polemics, seemed to offer real hope solution could be found within framework supervised withdrawal offensive weapons from Cuba in exchange for commitment by United States not invade Cuba. U Thant's conversations in New York and broad hints in Cuban speeches at UN also seemed offer hope settlement along these lines could promptly be reached. Khrushchev's message to U Thant agreeing keep Soviet vessels temporarily outside quarantine area also seemed favorable sign.

These hopes have been diminished by subsequent public letter from Khrushchev to the President linking Cuban settlement ~~to~~ to withdrawal of NATO ~~and~~ Jupiters from Turkey, but we continue to press for solution in Cuban framework alone.

3. The situation as we see it is increasingly serious and time is

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Telegraphic transmission and

G:UAJohnson:ges 10/26/62

classification approved by:

G - U. Alexis Johnson

Clearances:

White House - Mr. Bundy  
EUR - Mr. Tyler  
NEA - Mr. Talbot

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growing shorter. The United States remained determined to insure removal of offensive installations in Cuba. We are combining reasonable diplomatic offers and military pressure in even balance to this end.

4. But construction on the missile sites continues and there is every indication that more of the missiles are becoming operationally ready. Moreover, unarmed U.S. military aircraft which today were conducting publicly announced surveillance over Cuba were exposed to intensive ground fire and one of these aircraft is missing.

5. At the same time, Soviet vessels are also continuing to proceed toward the quarantine area in direct violation of Khrushchev's assurances to U Thant, although the Soviet Government was officially informed of the limits of the quarantine area by both U Thant and the United States Government. At the present rate of speed the first vessel ~~in~~ will reach the quarantine area during daylight Sunday and an incident may occur.

6. In these circumstances the United States Government may find it necessary within a very short time in its own interest and that of its fellow nations in the Western Hemisphere to take whatever military action may be necessary to remove this growing threat to the Hemisphere.

7. In the light of the developing possibility of the necessity for action in Cuba, the President has instructed you to bring this matter fully to the attention of the NAC. You should say that while the US holds to the position that this matter should be settled within framework of the public message to President Western Hemisphere, we have taken note of the Soviet ~~message~~ of October 27th in which a connection is made between NATO defenses and Soviet action in

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Cuba. This Soviet position increases the possibility that US military action in Cuba may result in some Soviet moves against NATO. In these circumstances the US feels it essential to inform its allies and to consult with them on the general situation.

8. FYI. It is of the utmost importance that nothing in your discussion should hint of any readiness to meet Soviet Jupiter exchange proposal, but it is equally important that you should allow free expression of European views, whatever they may be. In stimulating free response, you should strongly press the point that U.S. action in Cuba -- if it becomes essential -- will be directed at a potential threat to the total strategic balance endangering other NATO countries at least as much as the United States. End FYI.

~~END.~~

RUSK

REPEATED INFO NATO CAPITALS:

LONDON	2844
ECNN	1081
ROME	878
OTTAWA	529
ANKARA	457
ATHENS	479
LESEON	219
LUXEMBOURG	100
BRUSSELS	693
THE HAGUE	297
OSLO	151
COPENHAGEN	259
REYKJAVIK	137

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